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Dan Mathews

PETA's Daring Leader and Head Rabble-Rouser Comes to Sacramento To Promote New Book

SACRAMENTO'S SOURCE FOR GLBT NEWS SINCE 1978 • MARCH 14, 2008

Oscar Night

Everyone had a fabulous time at the Oscar Party on Sunday, February 24th, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Here's a few pics thanks for that awesome photographer Larry Lauszus of Photography by Larry

MGW

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EDITOR

Help Out; Don't Sign

By Matthew Burlingame

So I'm sitting in the MGW office the other day, frantically trying to finish the bulk of this issue before the weekend when I get a call from a woman named Kathleen.

She begins telling me about the Stop the Initiative campaign. Apparently people hired by the religious right are collecting signatures for an initiative petition to "protect marriage." This petition is actually about amending the state constitution to exclude gay and lesbian couples from ever marrying in California.

She was meeting with the leaders in our community and wanted to swing by to speak with us. My initial instinct was "email me". It seems the only way I keep track of anything these days in our increasingly information driven world is by having a copy in my inbox. Sometimes I feel I'd forget my name if it wasn't in my signature line.

But she continued on and eventually I agreed to give her a few minutes even though I was on deadline the day she was going to stop by.

I know, I know. I should have been more receptive to offering my help. This is important. This is an effort to help stop yet another unfair initiative to make sure there is still at least one collective of people in American that can be hated and oppressed legally. Otherwise the haters may have to try that whole Judeo-Christian "love everyone" rule for real—and they may just crack and shatter like a bad face-lift.

Yet, I still find myself holding back on the activism when it comes to the fight for marriage rights, though I support it wholeheartedly.

A few days later Kathleen enters my office and takes a seat. Within the first few minutes her slight southern accent and down-to-earth demeanor has won me over.

I was disappointed to find, however, that many in our community seem have become as activist-complacant as I unfortunately have found myself becoming over the years. I suppose it takes a 15-year-old boy being shot in the face for being openly gay before we get off our ass and remember we are still at the bottom end of the ladder in this country. And that we have to keep fighting for every single one of our rights no matter how large or small they are, until we are fully recognized as equals.

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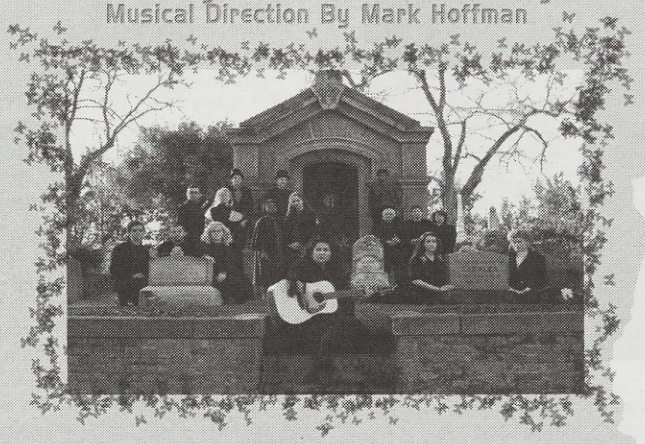

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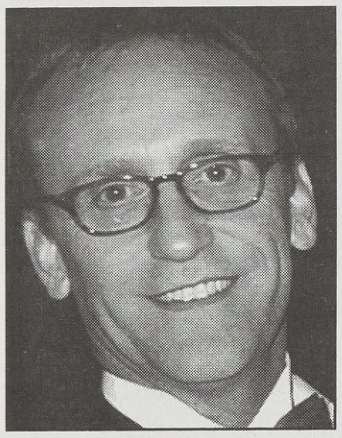
What's New at Sacramento Stonewall!



Ed Bennett, President
Sacramento Stonewall Democrats
SacStonewall.org

First off, Join Sacramento Stonewall and our new committee on Marriage Equality!

Marriage Equality is certain to be a huge issue for our community this year –and Sacramento Stonewall is rolling up its sleeves for the effort.

Yes, we work on local elections. And that work will continue. After all, our part in promoting GLBT Equality here at home involves building relationships with local electeds and local political allies who take our freedom seriously, both gay and straight. But this year's fight on behalf of Marriage Equality is tops in the priority department.

The drive by our enemies to put an anti-gay marriage initiative on the November ballot is on. The measure that the Prop 22 folks are trying to qualify would limit marriage to one-man-one-woman, and enshrine that limitation in the California State Constitution. Pure and simple, it is a cynical ploy to get something on the November ballot that will energize the religious base of the Republican Party.

It would also effectively sideline the gay community from the battle for the White House. Our community, statewide – and even nationwide – would have to commit serious resources to the battle. Experts have estimated the cost at $20 million.

Sacramento Stonewall is joining an effort to keep the initiative off the ballot. We're also gearing up to fight the thing if it qualifies. Laurie McBride and Paul Curtis, both longtime Stonewall members (and veterans of several political campaigns) are chairing the subcommittee.

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW!

As you drive by the local big box stores in your neighborhood – the Target, Wal-Mart, etc – check to see if there is a table out front where someone is collecting signatures on petitions. If so, get the information to the email below. That's right… just alerting us to the location of signature gatherers is a big help!

Please use this email to send in any and all information about signature gatherers that you see – and help us look for them in front of stores, on popular street corners, wherever! tips@equalityforall.com.

Don't feel like you have to go up and start a ruckus with them. Most of the signature gatherers are paid to be there. They get paid by the signature. Most don't care about the issues; they're just trying to make a living. They usually have more than one petition they are hawking.

If you do come face to face with a signature gatherer, remember to be nice! In fact, you can help just by asking questions and taking up space and time. And join Sacramento Stonewall! Our new Marriage Equality Committee needs your help in developing a winning strategy from fundraising to neighbor-to-neighbor campaigning!

STONEWALL ENDORSES FARGO FOR MAYOR

Sacramento Stonewall voted unanimously to endorse Heather Fargo in her re-election bid for Mayor of Sacramento at their General Membership Meeting on Monday, February 11th. Mayor Fargo has been a huge supporter of GLBT issues here in Sacramento and received the Four Freedoms Freedom from Fear award in 2007.

Please join us as the GLBT community unites for a fundraiser for Mayor Fargo on Thursday, April 3rd. The event will be held at the home of Ted Ross and Eric Jensen, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Cost is $50 per person. More information is available on our website: www.sacstonewall.org or email to Fargo08LGBTEvent@yahoo.com or by phone at 916-646-3827.

STONEWALL ENDORSEMENTS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

Stonewall Democrats will be interviewing candidates for offices set for the June election on Saturday, April 5th. Everyone is welcome to come hear from the candidates. After the interview meeting, we meet at the General Membership meeting on April 14th to vote on the actual endorsements. Only active members are eligible to vote in this process. Details for both meetings will be available on our website: www.sacstonewall.org.

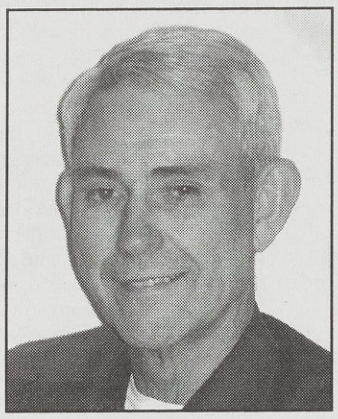
MAY 28TH: HOLD THAT DATE!

Our Four Freedoms Banquet is set for May 28th, and promises to be more fun that ever! The Club That Gets Things Done! That's our motto, and you can be a part of it!

To sign up for email updates and/or join Sacramento Stonewall go to: www.sacStonewall.org

Libertarian Perspective:

New Laws Are No Substitute for Individual Responsibility



By Steve Strayer

Two days after my friend, Norma, purchased a new car from a dealer in Hayward, Calif., she reexamined the paperwork and discovered some hidden charges and other misrepresentations. After my vain attempt to help her negotiate some reasonable remedy, Norma decided there should be a law mandating a cooling-off period for car buying similar to that required for some real estate transactions.

I understand her frustration and sense of helplessness at being victimized by an unscrupulous merchant (let's call him Fred). I also understand the temptation to lash out with any expedient, such as a new law, to punish the scoundrel. But would that new law my friend proposed solve the problem, or even accomplish any good at all? Unfortunately not, other than maybe providing some fleeting sense of satisfaction.

Realistically, that law would only result in higher prices for cars, higher taxes, less freedom for people to negotiate transactions according to their individual preferences, and new opportunities for crooked car dealers to fleece other consumers. A new law would not prevent Fred from ripping people off. He and others like him would be in the forefront of lobbying efforts to influence the details of the law.

On the other hand, my friend and other honest people would be unwilling to sacrifice energy, money, time and the personal integrity to engage in the sleazy activities required to effectively influence politicians. Once any new law affecting Fred's business came into effect, you can be sure he and his lawyers would analyze its implications and devise tactics for exploiting it to his own advantage. How likely is a typical customer to review the law before kicking tires in a showroom?

As more and more laws affect businesses, financial success depends less and less on satisfying customers (the focus of ethical merchants) and more on legal and political gambits used by the less ethical. In such an environment, unethical merchants gain competitive advantage, and some ethical merchants get fed up and quit (a few are driven out by dishonest or unethical customers using crazy laws to take advantage of them).

In my friend Norma's situation, Fred made constant references to legalities, court action, and so on in response to our calls for truth, ethical practices, and reasonable behavior. Can anyone (except a politician) reasonably think another law would help here? Or would it just give this turkey and others like him another weapon to use against honest and trusting, but legally uninformed consumers.

A new law would promote carelessness by consumers and deferral to government-mandated fixes as a substitute for individual responsibility for their own affairs. This situation would lead to more abuses by unethical merchants, calls for more new laws, and so on.

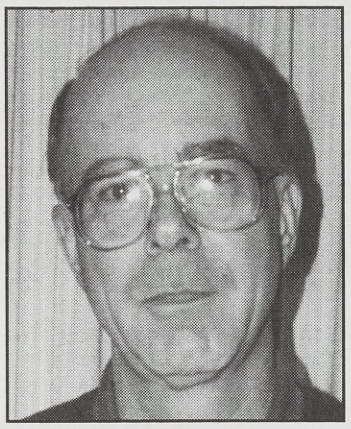
Certainly my friend's recent trouble was partly due to her own carelessness in reviewing the transaction before committing to it. Couldn't it be true that her expectation that the law would override her errors contributed to her carelessness? In an environment where individuals expect no law to protect them, people typically are more careful to protect their own interests, and this problem would probably be less likely to arise in first place. With fewer laws on the books, transactions would be less complex, less confusing, and unethical merchants would have a harder time fooling customers.

If my friend is successful in promoting her new law, all of us would have to be "protected" by it whether we want to or not. We would all have to wait some government-mandated period before consummating a purchase. The next time I buy a car, quite likely I will want to complete the transaction without the inconvenience of a politically inspired cooling off period; and it's a certainty I would prefer not to pay the taxes and higher price necessitated by the costs of compliance with yet another law

The tendency for Americans in recent times to turn to the government for a "new law" to right every wrong and solve every personal problem has brought us to the present situation where nobody can be aware of all laws that may affect them. The result is that all of us have become inadvertent lawbreakers and we've been encouraged to have disregard for the law in general. This attitude in turn is rapidly leading to the destruction of the freedom, individuality, instincts for ethical behavior, and prosperity that once made the U.S. and her citizens the envy of others throughout the world.

Steve Strayer earned his engineering degree at the University of Kansas and completed USAF Navigator and Electronic Warfare officer schools, After five years in the Air Force during the Vietnam era, he completed MBA coursework at California State University, Hayward. He currently serves as a systems engineering consultant.

Be Heard



Supreme Court Hears Marriage Case

By Boyce Hinman
The Lambda Letters Project, LambdaLP@aol.com

On March 4, 2008 the California Supreme Court heard an historic case. As the result of this hearing they have agreed to rule on the question of whether or not it is unconstitutional, in California, to deny same sex couples the right to marry.

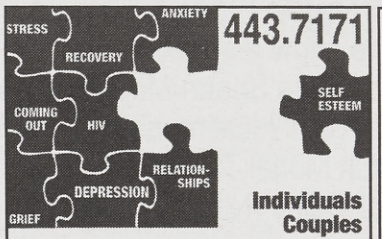
The hearing was the result of 6 cases, on this question, that have been appealed to the Supreme Court. The cases were combined into one case for the hearing on same sex marriage. Four of the cases were filed by the city of San Francisco and 19 same-sex couples seeking the right to marry, and two were filed by traditional values groups opposing such a right. The most famous of these cases is the suit by the City of San Francisco, seeking to overturn the court decision which invalidated the marriage licenses of about 4,000 same sex couples that were issued by the city in 2004.

The plaintiffs asking the court to overturn the ban on same sex marriage were represented by a total of four attorneys. One from the city, one from the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), and two attorneys for other plaintiffs. It is interesting to note that the state, which opposed a change to current law, was represented by two attorneys, one representing the Attorney General and another representing the Governor. This prompted one Justice to ask if the Attorney General and the Governor disagree as to what basis there is for claiming that the ban is constitutional. The implication was that, if these two parties disagree as to what basis justifies the ban, then perhaps one or both of them is wrong.

There are 7 Justices on the Supreme Court. Thus, if a minimum of four justices agree to overturn the ban, the supporters of marriage equality will have won. Same sex marriage will be legal in California. Based on the questions asked by the justices, it appears that three, or possibly four, justices may be leaning toward overturning the ban. An attorney connected with Lambda Letters thought Justices Moreno, Kennard, Werdeger and Chief Justice George were leaning towards overturning the ban. A court reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle agrees with this list except for Justice Werdeger. He thinks she was leaning the other way. However, he noted that she was one of two justices who said the marriage licenses of the 4,000 couples married in San Francisco should not have been overturned. That decision was one of the decisions being appealed on March 4. It did appear, from the questions being asked, that Justices Chin, Baxter, and Corrigan were leaning towards upholding the ban on same sex marriage.

However, nothing is certain until the decision is announced. The tenor of the questions being asked does not always reveal the true views of the judge. The court has 90 days in which to issue a ruling in the case. So we may hear the outcome as late as early June.

If you did not get to see the Supreme Court hearing on March 4 you can see and hear it by going to the following Internet address: http://www.calchannel.com. Then click on the word "watch" found under the words "California Supreme Court: Same Sex Marriage."



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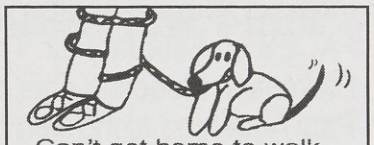
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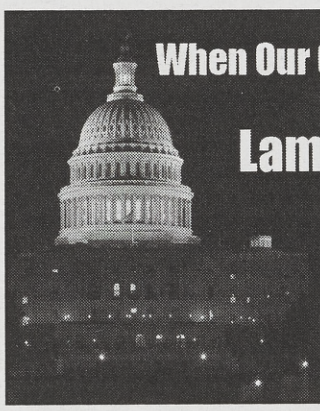
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Pictures from the Andrew Christian Fashion Show at FACES on February 22. The show featured Janice Dickenson Modeling Agency stars Shaun McCarron and Paul Anderson along with several local models and an surprise appearance by Adult Model TJ Hawke.

Photos by Rachel Valley (Niftyimages.com)

PETA Leader and Rabble-Rouser Dan Mathews In Sacramento To Promote New Book

Irreverent PETA leader Dan Mathews, the gay vegan jail bait who for 20 years has made animal rights the "it" cause through provocative protests and by recruiting stars like Tim Gunn, Ellen DeGeneres, and Lady Bunny for PETA campaigns, will be in Sacramento March 26 (7pm., Borders, 2339 Fair Oaks Blvd), as part of the national tour for his acclaimed memoir, Committed.

Dan Mathews is the irreverent force responsible for making PETA one of the most enduring, powerful and annoying pressure groups in the world, with over 1.2 million members. Mathews' colorful crusades often land him behind bars—or enlisting stars—and in the process he has made animal rights the "it" cause, with provocative campaigns such as "I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur."

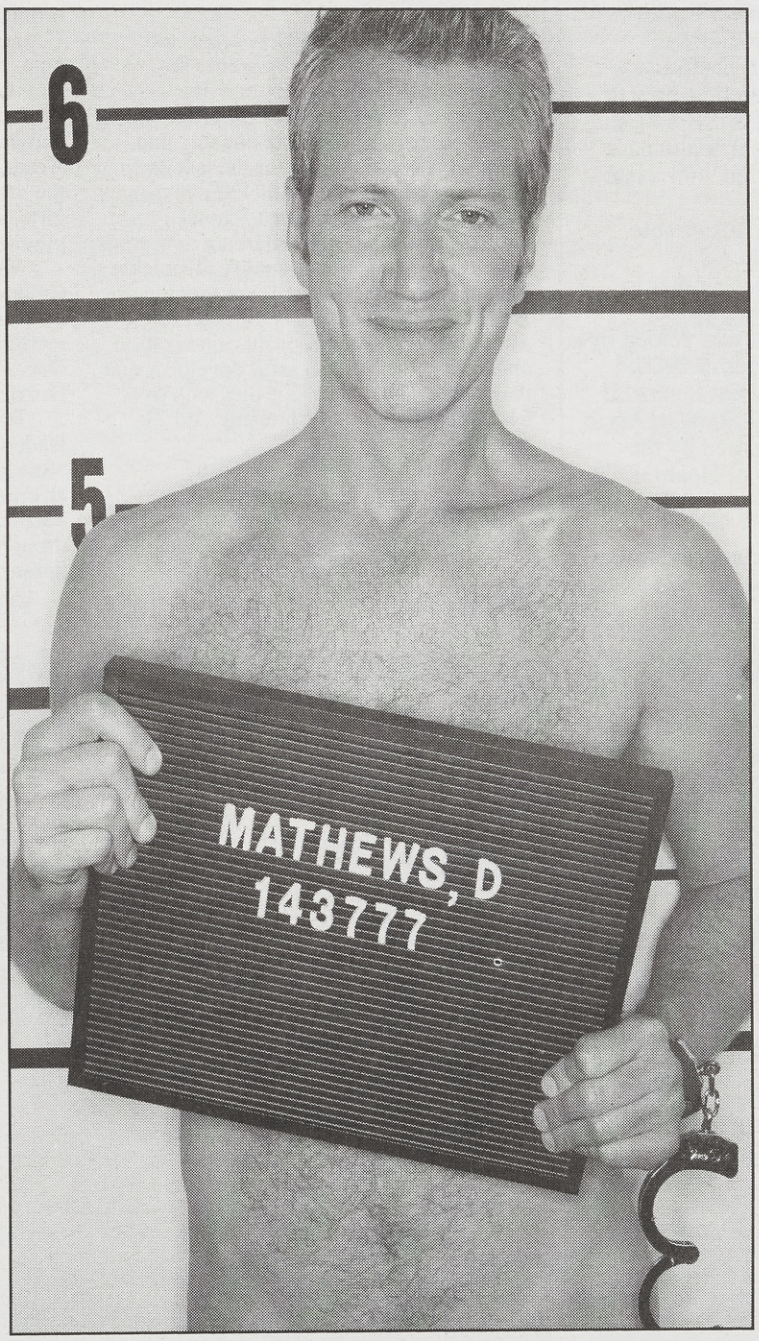
To the multitudes who like to see the status quo challenged, he is an inspiration—not just for redefining activism and making it relevant for today's escapist society, but for his lifelong devotion and his frank, funny and fearless style. Genre named him "one of the most influential gays of the new millennium."

Now, Mathews offers the complete story of his remarkable life and outrageous career in COMMITTED: A Rabble-Rouser's Memoir (Atria Books). Mathews, who began at PETA in 1985 as the then-fledgling organization's receptionist and worked his way up to Vice President, tells of his unorthodox coming-of-age and his spectacular rise to become one of today's most famous firebrands.

Recounting the most hilarious and horrific experiences of both his personal and professional life, Mathews delivers a witty, bold and passionate memoir that reveals how one man's unyielding devotion to animals has helped change the world.

Mathews begins by chronicling his tumultuous childhood as one of three boys being raised by a struggling single mother who didn't always have enough cash to pay rent or the electric bill—but never skimped when sending protest telegrams to elected officials. He also writes of growing up gay—and being a punk rocker—in conservative Orange County, California, long before being gay or punk was stylish.

Dan was the target of such intense hostility that after one bloody fight bullies spray-painted his school's entrance with the message "Dan Mathews We Will Kill You." Mathews also explains how he developed his passion for animal rights: first by taking in alley cats who were pulverized by the same thugs who intimidated him, and then on a fishing trip with his dad, where, after yanking a struggling flounder out of the water, he vowed to never kill again and became a vegetarian.



"I was naively confident that everybody would grasp this simple, noble logic and adopt the same basic regard for fish and chickens that they had for dogs, cats, and all other animals with a heart, brain, and nervous system," Mathews writes.

"Most people ridiculed me for proposing such a far-fetched idea. This was 1978 and from that day on I've been on a mission to promote the very same idea. Thankfully, it's not considered far-fetched anymore."

Years before he became infamous for disrupting fur fashion shows, Mathews was a catwalk model himself, in Italy, where he supported himself doing runway work, commercials, and even a spaghetti western, while earning a degree in ancient history.

Inspired by the forceful pro-vegetarian writings of philosophers Pythagoras and Plutarch, Mathews decided to become a full-time crusader, moving to Washington, DC and taking a job with a young organization named PETA.

At PETA, Mathews deepened his knowledge of animal issues and within a few years developed creative and controversial campaigns which grabbed attention and achieved results. Mathews stopped GM's crash tests on animals after taking over the company's float in the Rose Parade dressed as a rabbit; he stopped Gillette's animal tests after impersonating a janitor and wheeling a television into the executive cafeteria to show videos of the gruesome experiments; and he impersonated a priest to gain entry into a fur designer's fashion show in Milan, taking over the runway with a banner reading, "Thou Shalt Not Kill." In COMMITTED, Mathews reveals the planning, chaos, and consequences of his most daring protests.

He discusses how he dressed up as a carrot to talk to school kids about vegetarianism—and was pelted with bologna by angry farmers; how he was arrested just before a speaking engagement at Harvard for indecent exposure (he hosted a public "bed-in" with pillows bearing the message "fur-out, love-in"); incited a riot at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Paris to protest the company's live-scalding of birds in defeathering tanks; and laid siege to the offices of Calvin Klein in New York where he personally convinced Klein to abandon his fur line. "I think more about Dan's concerns than his tactics," Calvin told reporters afterward. "I'm sympathetic, and we've become friends."

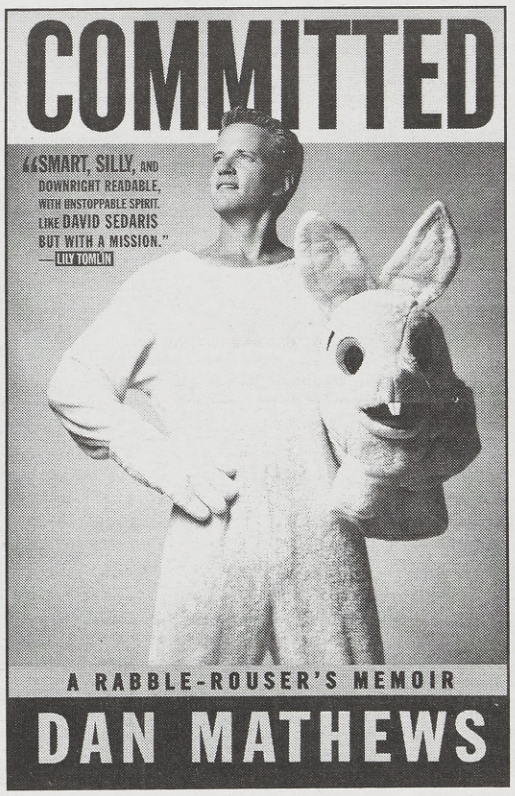
Although not everyone has befriended Mathews (such as fur targets Jennifer Lopez and Anna Wintour of Vogue), Mathews has drawn the admiration of public personalities as diverse as Martha Stewart and Rev Al Sharpton—both of whom he persuaded to narrate PETA anti-cruelty videos—and Sir Paul McCartney, Alec Baldwin, Pink, Chrissie Hynde, and Pamela Anderson, all of whom he develops campaigns for.

His most famous campaign—"Rather Go Naked than Wear Fur"—redefined the concept of cause ads, by using sex to sell the message. Writes Mathews: "For many years I pushed campaigns which appealed to people's intellect and compassion, but as society became hungrier for entertainment than education we had to dream up flashier ways to vie for people's attention.

Of course, in doing so we often have to make ourselves look quite silly, but I've easily adjusted because I am, at heart, a very silly person."

Illuminating and engaging, COMMITTED tells the remarkable story of an equally remarkable man who has lived life on his own terms. "When I wake up each morning, my first thought isn't, I want to help animals, but I want to have fun," Mathews writes. "But where is it written that just because you have devoted your life to fighting for a serious cause, you can't have a good time doing it?"

More info at simonsays.com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—LILY TOMLIN
A RABBLE-ROUSER'S MEMOIR
DAN MATHEWS

Steinberg To Speak At Single-Payer Health Care Training

In light of the failure of recent health care reforms to even make it out of committee, California's blueprint for true universal health care is getting another look.

Senate Bill 840, the California Health Insurance Reliability Act, is the subject of an open-to-the public workshop Saturday April 5, 2008. The purpose of the workshop is to recruit and train ordinary people to make presentations about SB 840 and the single payer system of health care.

At 10 am Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) will warm up the half-day session with remarks about the merits of SB 840, authored by Sen. Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica). Steinberg, a well-known advocate for universal health care, is also a co-author of SB 840.

Next, Sara Rogers of Sen. Kuehl's staff will explain the key elements of the bill.

Workshop attendees will learn: how to increase knowledge about SB 840 and the single-payer concept; how SB 840 will be funded; how to handle the "hard questions" when making presentations about SB 840 and single-payer health care. (Example: it is not "socialized" medicine.); how to speak to businesses, the health industry and churches; how to pass resolutions in support of SB 840; the difference between universal health care under SB 840 and plans titled "universal" that do not cover everyone.

SB 840 calls for quality, affordable, portable health care with access to doctors of your choice and is similar to Medicare. SB 840 has already passed both legislative houses, but was vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006.

The workshop is at the Hart Senior Center, 927 27th (bet. I & J Streets), April 5, 9:30am - 3pm. It's sponsored by the Sacramento Valley chapter of Health Care for All. Registration is $15 and includes a light lunch.

For more information, contact Carolyn Negrete, legislative liaison, 916-424-5316.

Assemblymember Jones Nominates Woman of the Year

Assemblymember Dave Jones (D-Sacramento) has nominated Rachel Iskow as the Assembly District 9 Woman of the Year.

Rachel Iskow is a widely respected and successful community leader in Sacramento. For over 18 years she has worked in the field of non-profit development of affordable housing and community organizing. For the last 14 years, she has served as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Mutual Housing Association (SMHA), a non-profit developer that has built quality affordable housing around the Sacramento region. As Executive Director she turned around a small struggling non-profit organization and built it into a successful developer and manager of affordable housing with over 646 units of affordable housing and 21 employees.

Iskow is a Past-President of the Sacramento Housing Alliance. As an outspoken advocate for community empowerment, she has helped lead a number of local initiatives, including persuading the Sacramento City Council to adopt a rental inspection ordinance, persuading the City and County of Sacramento to adopt affordable housing ordinances, and persuading the City and County to adopt a ten year homelessness plan.

Iskow is also a member of the People United for a Better Sacramento (PUBS), and the Parent Council of Language Academy of Sacramento, Iskow is also the mother of two foster children. The girls, ages 5 and 9, are sisters who were previously split up.

On March 10 at 10:00 am the California State Assembly will hold a "Woman of the Year" ceremony to recognize outstanding California women. One woman from each of the 80 Assembly Districts is honored.

"Rachel Iskow is an extraordinary leader," said Assemblymember Jones. "She has dedicated her life to providing affordable housing for Sacramento's neediest families and to helping empower these families through community organizing."

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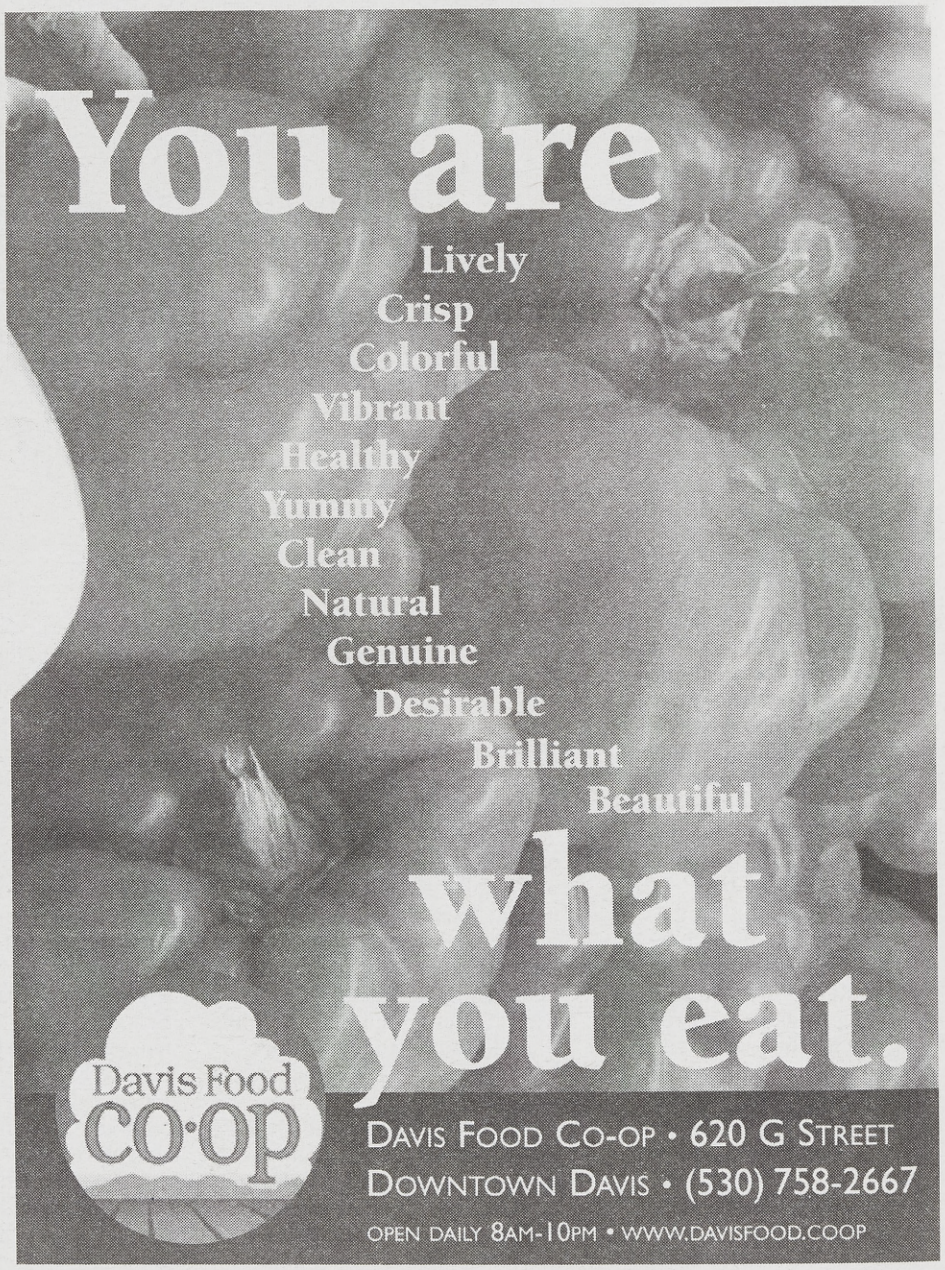

16th Annual Lambda Awards to Honor GLBT Legislative Caucus Leader

Assemblymember John Laird, chair of the California GLBT Legislative Caucus and recently ranked the South Bay's most effective legislator by the San Jose Mercury News, will receive the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center's prestigious Timothy Warford Leadership Award on Monday, March 24, at the Center's 16th Annual Lambda Awards. Since his election to the Assembly in 2002, Laird has had numerous legislative successes, including AB 1400, passed in 2005, which added sexual orientation and gender identity to the state's civil rights protections. Equality California Executive Director Geoff Kors will present Laird's award

Lambda Awards will be held on Monday, March 24, at the Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, with cocktails and silent auction at 6 p.m., dinner and awards program at 7:30 p.m.

Other Lambda Awards recipients will include Georgette Imura of the Satendar Justice Coalition; Kathleen Montgomery of Greater Sacramento PFLAG; Buzz Haughton of Lavender Library; Larry Lauszus of Photography by Larry; and Hewlett-Packard Company. VIP presenters will include California Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, West Sacramento Mayor and Assembly candidate Christopher Cabaldon, Sacramento Stonewall Democrats President Ed Bennett and Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce President Fred Palmer. Television personalities Jackie Taylor of DIY Network's "Grounds for Improvement" and Michael Glassman of HGTV's "Gardening by the Yard" will serve as masters of ceremonies.

Tickets for Lambda Awards are $85 ($850 for a table of 10). Call 916-442-0185, Ext. 110, for reservations, or visit www.saccenter.org for more information. Sponsorship opportunities are available, and silent auction donations are needed. Proceeds support programs and services of the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center, including programs for at-risk GLBT youth, comprehensive counseling program, training in GLBT issues for mental health and social service professionals, transgender services, free weekly legal clinic, HIV/AIDS support services, facilitated discussion groups for GLBT adults, and community events such as Sacramento Pride June 21, 2008.

Lambda Awards sponsors include Hewlett-Packard Company, jetBlue Airways, Wells Fargo, Outword Magazine, Valley Rainbow Pages, Smart Sign, 1st Rate Limousine, Legend Auto, Salon Eliz, Partner for Life/SheShe.com, oodleboxtv.com/Tulips TV LLC, faces, Delta Homes & Lending, Photography by Larry, Sir Speedy, and WriteAway Communications Services.

Entrepreneur and activist Terry Sidie is presented with the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center's Community Champion Award by Wells Fargo's Chevo Ramirez at the 2007 Lambda Awards.

Photo By: Photography by Larry

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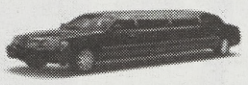

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CCGRA

The 2008 Sierra Stampede Rodeo and Festival To Be Held July 25-27

Sacramento's Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA) would like to invite you to participate in our 2008 Sierra Stampede Rodeo and Festival. The Rodeo and Festival will be held July 26 and July 27, 2008 at the Central Park Horse Arena, 848 Elkhorn Boulevard, Rio Linda, CA 95673. The festival grounds will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m.

Many of the weekend's activities will be centered at the host hotel, the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento, 1401 Arden Way. The Rodeo Kick-off will be at the Bolt on Thursday July 24th with a Barbeque-Beer Bust and a Celebrity Dunk Tank.

The 2008 Sierra Stampede is a sanctioned rodeo of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA).

As the newest member association of the IGRA we expect to welcome cowboys and cowgirls from across the country to compete in our rodeo. Attendance will exceed our previous rodeos. Capital Crossroads was founded in 1996, and 2008 will be our 8th Sierra Stampede. Along with the rodeo there will be a Festival on the grounds of the Central Park Horse Arena with live entertainment and a vendor area that will include a beer garden and food.

Vendor applications for the Festival are now being accepted. Based on the success of our previous Festivals, we will keep all vendors in a centralized location. We are looking forward to a wide variety of vendors for our 2008 Sierra Stampede. There will be a vendor guide in our rodeo program.

Vendor applications are available on line or by e-mailing the Sierra Stampede Rodeo Vendor Coordinator, George Raya at vendor@capitalcrossroads.org.

If you have any questions pertaining to the Rodeo and Festival activities, you may visit our web site capitalcrossroads.org.

Be Seen

We meet the third Tuesday of each month.

Come Join Us!

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(877) 722-7224

RAINBOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Sacramento

www.RainbowChamber.com

Name of Business/Group:
Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association

Years Operating:
Founded in 1996, this will be our 8th Sierra Stampede Rodeo

What is Capital Crossroads?
Capital Crossroads is a group of cowboys and cowgirls who enjoy and promote the sport of rodeo. Much more than that, it is a group of men and women that have the same interest and goals of preserving the western heritage and promoting the western lifestyle through rodeo and other related western events (like dancing).

Why was Capital Crossroads Founded?
To educate the community in the Western lifestyle; and preservation of our Western Heritage, and to organize and host a local gay rodeo.

What are some of the services provided?
Educate the community about the diversity of the gay lifestyle in order to increase the overall understanding and awareness of the members of the gay community; to promote and support the Sierra Stampede Rodeo; support the sport of rodeo; and to provide education, safety, and training in the production and participation of the sport of rodeo for the gay and non-gay communities

Tell us about Capital Crossroads' involvement in the general community?
Capital Crossroads has a long history of providing volunteers to support organizations in the community. Each year our organization coordinates the Beer Garden at the Annual PRIDE Festival at Southside Park. We sent 26 volunteers to help at the 2007 Lazy Bear Weekend, and provided volunteers for Breaking Barriers' Harvest Festival 2007.

What's new in the next year for Capital Crossroads?
Capital Crossroads will be providing volunteers for the 2008 California Capital Airshow (a 2 day event); we will be supporting other local charities and we are hosts to the 2008 Sierra Stampede Rodeo and Festival July 25-27, 2008.

Tell us about the different Projects and funds Capital Crossroads is involved with?
Capital Crossroads' main project is producing and hosting the 2008 Sierra Stampede Rodeo and Festival. Another project is the building of our Capital Crossroads Royalty and rodeo safety and education. Our Dean Burkan Safety and Education Fund helps us with our goals in the community and surrounding rodeo activities with regards to safety and education. We provide safety equipment to high school rodeos and to other IGRA member associations as needed.

Where would you like to see Capital Crossroads grow in the next 5 years?
We see ourselves with a huge growth in membership and hosts to one of the best rodeos on the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) circuit.

What does Capital Crossroads most need right now?
Capital Crossroads needs volunteers and sponsors for our 2008 Sierra Stampede Rodeo and Festival; new members, and community support.

How does one get a membership or become a volunteer?
You can become a volunteer or a member by visiting our web site at http://www.capitalcrossroads.org or you can contact our Member-At-Large at memberatlarge@capitalcrossroads.org.

Name:
Sammy Van Galder

Years living in Sacramento:
21 years, now.

What defines you?
Boots, Wrangler's and hat, always a cowboy no matter what current fad or style is passing through. I even bought large saddlebags for my motorcycle so I could carry my hat anywhere I go.

What do you want to see happen for our community?
Diversity as a positive image

What's your claim to fame?
Although a late start in life at rodeo, breaking the stereotype that gays and accountants can ride Bulls.

What makes you angry?
Probably a lot of things but I do my very best to not let it show.

What makes you happy?
Being in the chutes or arena helping someone that is more interested in learning to rodeo than how his/her hat looks on them.

Greatest weakness?
Wanting to please everyone.

Greatest Strengths?
Unconditional love - or that may be a weakness since it takes a lot for me to fall. Well then, modesty, because I am not the only one that makes a difference in the community, and will gladly recognize and acknowledge others just as deserving.

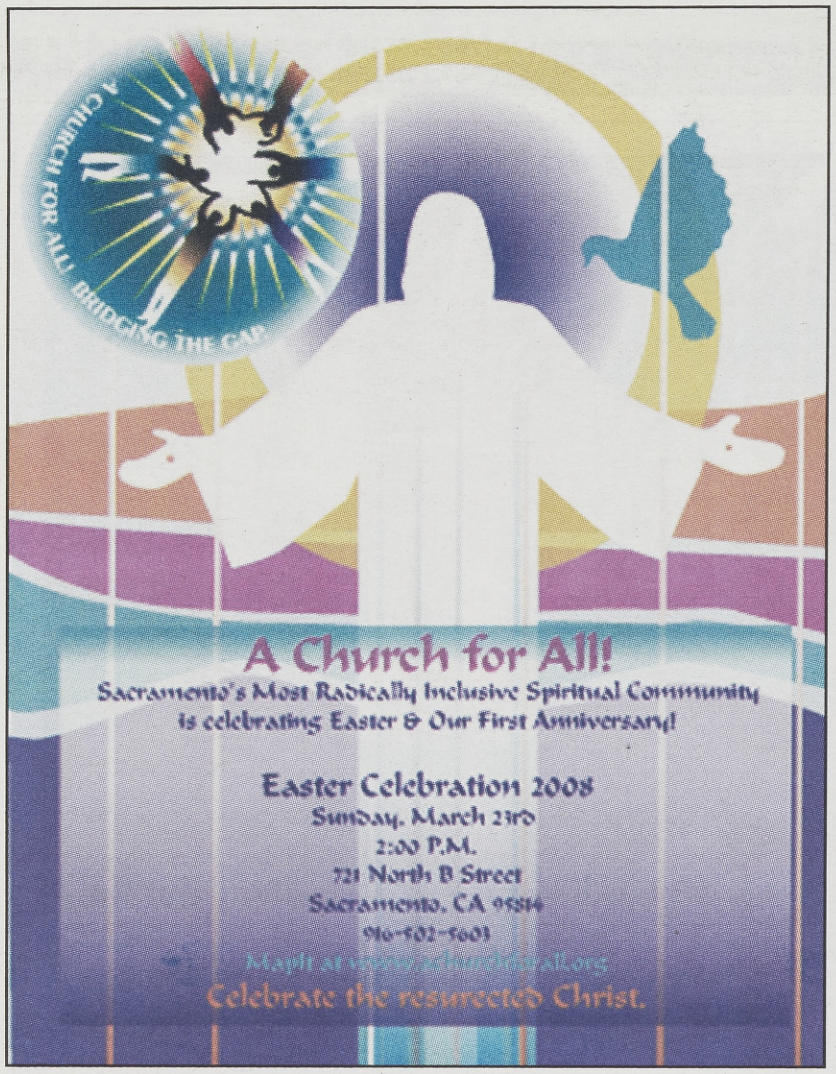
How long have you been involved with the community and in what capacities?
I've lived in Sacramento 21 years. Probably 19 of them have been out in the community in some capacity. I've always been volunteering in one organization or another. I've made friends and contacts in communities across the entire U.S. and offer my support and assistance where and when needed. I've been auctioned, used as a prop, sold tickets, performed, volunteered, organized, and more - all in the name of charity.

What's the best thing about your job?
I have been blessed to work for a company that values their employees as much as they value their profits. I couldn't ask for a more supportive work-family.

What other non-profits do you support?
There are so many, and not all in the gay community.

If you could tell the world one thing, what would it be?
It is so easy to give advice and not take your own advice -- sit back and take a look around you; you'll find a world of beauty in as little as a moment if you take the moment to look.

Who are your GLBT heroes locally and globally?
I don't know that I could name one specifically, nor would it be right. I see the direction of the question, but I don't put on GLBT blinders. I think there are leaders in and out of the community that do incredible work for everyone in need, not just gay rights, gay benefits, and gay needs.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Over 150 varieties of Perennials will be available, including new and hard to find varieties. From Astilbe to Zephrantyes, with the newest Heuchera and Heucherella releases the sale will be a gold mine for the true perennial lover. To help make the trip extra worthwhile for those driving in from out of town, the extended hours of this sale will allow those coming from a distance to come to the sale early and then go on to the Perennial Plant Club sale, hitting two plant sales in one day and making the trip more economical for the gas used, a factor that definitely effects people today.
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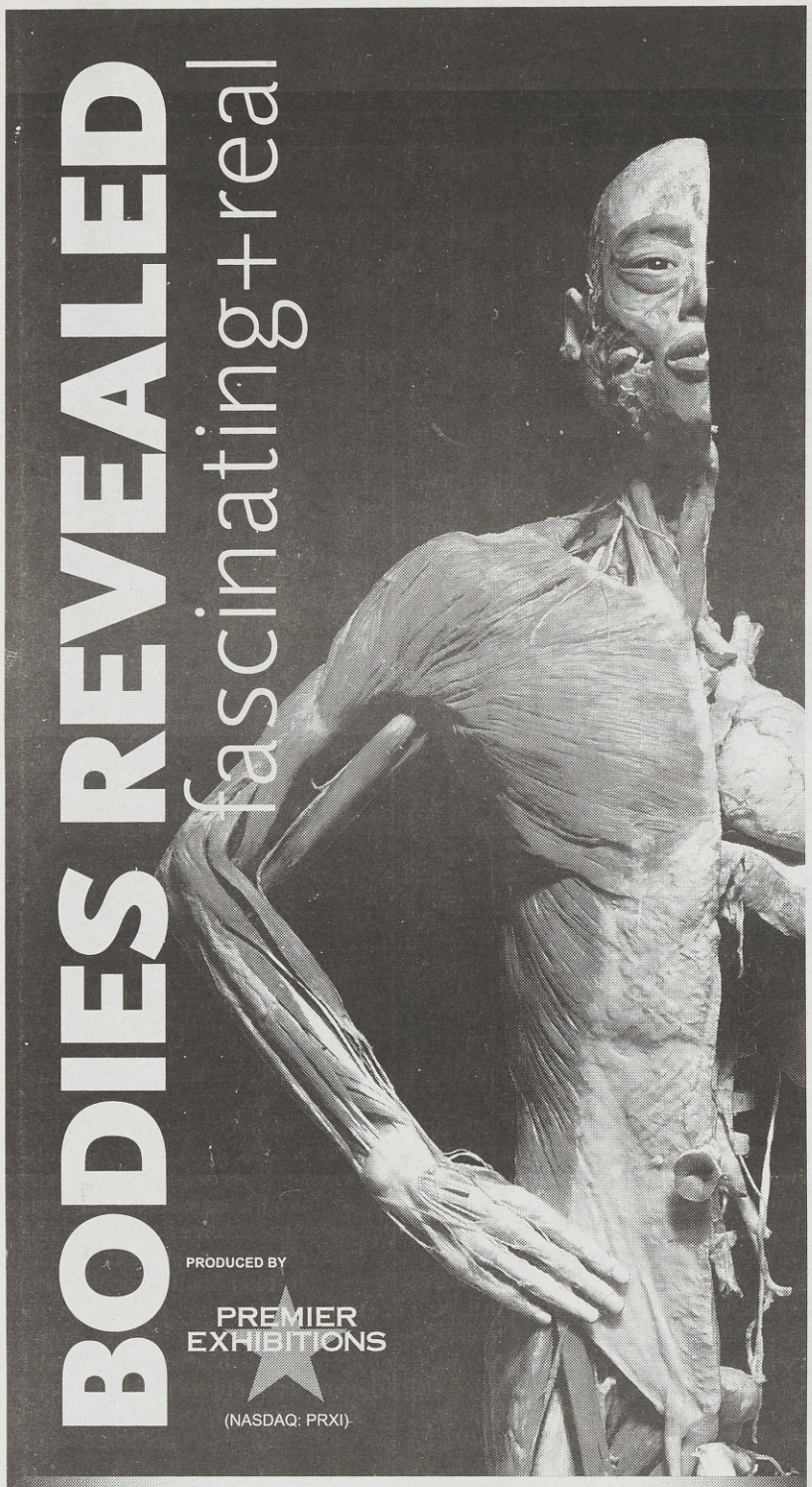

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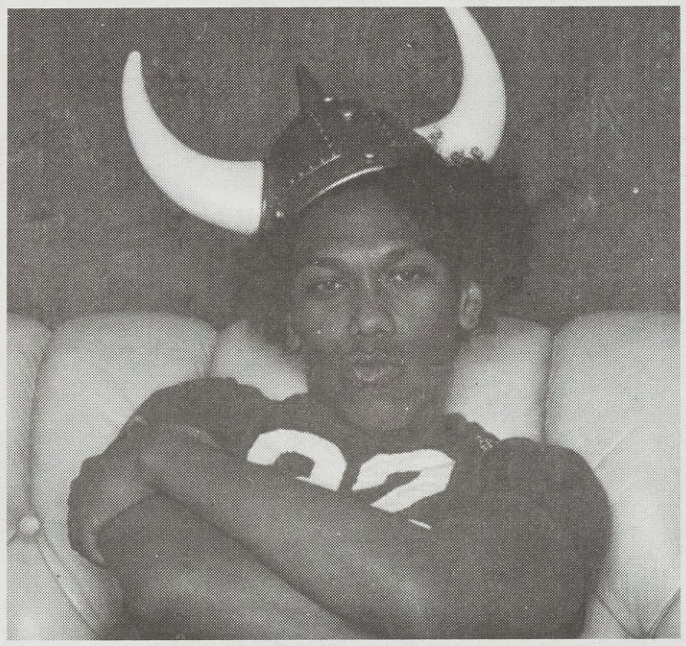
CULTURE

VH1's Jesse Lewis IV To Make Appearance



Jesse Lewis IV, star of the new hit VH1 show, "America's MOST Smartest Model" is a native of Sacramento, CA and will visiting his hometown March 14-16 to host the Global Hair Expo at the Sacramento Convention Center. Lewis will also be hosting events at local area night clubs that weekend (Details to be announced).

Lewis is an avid supporter of the arts and believes that new generations bring fresh innovative ideas and for that they should be celebrated but also cultivated. As an openly bisexual African American actor, Jesse has learned that the need for diversity is vital in media. Not only are entertainers missing out on wondrous opportunities but also the viewing audience is suffering from an inadequate representation of or wondrously diverse world. Jesse is fully aware of your media outlet's vision and would undoubtably like to support in any way possible. Jesse has appeared several times on the MTV Network and recently wrapped production on the upcoming SPOOF Films project "Meet the Spartans" starring Carmen Electra. (from the makers of the Scary Movie/ Epic Movie trilogies). Jesse appeared on the infamous underwear commercial for American Apparel, and has received numerous write ups in publications ranging from Star magazine, JET, Miami Herald, NY Post and, was recently a guest at the Scream Awards 2007. Jesse is an awesomely entertaining comedian who is unafraid to address relative issues that effect today's youth including alternative lifestyles and positive self image. Jesse Lewis is an upcoming young and fresh diverse face to watch now and into 2008.

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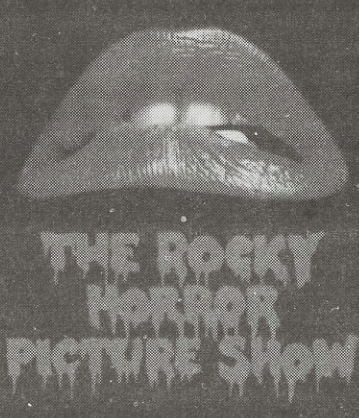

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Lambda Players' "Burnt Fields" Opens March 21

Experience The Magic Of Mississippi, The Deep South...

The Cast of Burnt Fields
Photo By Kiny McCarrick

Down a lonely stretch of road in the middle of the woods… lies a small town just past the turn-of-the-century; its souls haunted by memories of days gone by and lost in time. Love, hate, greed, honor, jealousy, humiliation. The fortune-teller, the preacher, the piano teacher, the young doctor, the flapper, the captain, the widow, the outcast, the righteous…angels, devils, ghosts…and three young lovers whose lives, losses, hopes, tragedies and dreams set into motion a chain of events that haunts the town's inhabitants forever. Bigotry, friendship, prejudice, revenge… good versus evil. The Cemetery, a church house, a motorcar, a medal... long hot nights, forbidden loves, haunting melodies, rousing hymns, hell fire and damnation… welcome to Burnt Fields.

The cemetery serves as the lead character in the play and the souls that inhabit it are its supporting players. The play is set in the fictionalized small town of Burnt Fields, Mississippi; a dot on a map off an old country road located between the small towns of Fairview and Sandy Springs (9 miles NE of Fulton). Whether a town truly existed at this location is still speculation but a church and a cemetery exist there to this day, with tombstones dating back to the 1800s.

Burnt Fields began as a series of monologues written by Jimmy; the voices of an assortment of characters from the south that had no connection to each other, except that their lives were affected by significant events.

Written by Jimmy Cliff George and Kurt Gregory VanDover, this production is directed by Kurt Kurtis & West Ramsey with Music Direction by Mark Hoffman.

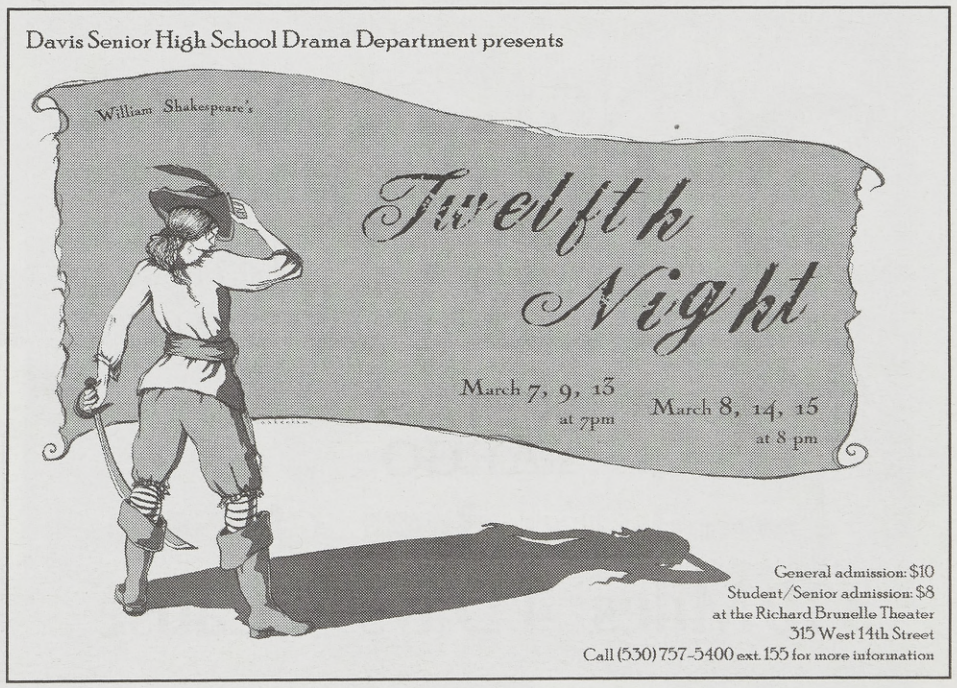
George and VanDover collaborated to bring the characters together by intertwining the stories of their lives and creating a tapestry of life in a small town. They developed further history of the characters and their relationships to each other as well as collaborated on much of the dialogue. The first version of the play was performed a little over 16 years ago at the Sacramento Metropolitan Community Church on Broadway after receiving a new works award grant through the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, ranking third out of 63 applicants. Although not a musical, Burnt Fields is a play with music, most of which was written and composed by Jimmy. Changes to the script that were discussed by George and VanDover were completed prior to George's death. George asked VanDover to not let Burnt Fields be forgotten. This production of Burnt Fields is being performed in his memory.

George was born in Fulton Mississippi on July 17, 1956. He was a composer, playwright and artist enthralled with the poetic language of the south. George worked for the Itawamba County Arts Council and was a regular attendee of the Burntfields Church. He won a Red Lamp Award for poetry in 1982 and studied at the Memphis College of Art before arriving in Sacramento in the late '80s.

George's paintings were featured in Sacramento art galleries shortly after he arrived here and he went on to make his living working for art galleries in San Francisco and Mill Valley. Jimmy returned to Itawamba County to live prior to his death. He passed away on August 30, 1994.

Kurtis was born in New Jersey, his father was in the army and he spent time in Germany and London during part of his childhood. Although he spent some time in Sacramento and attended high school here, he spent time living in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado and has been back in Sacramento for about ten years. Kurtis has been involved in theatre off and on since he was in kindergarten. Kurtis is a multi-talented artist who draws, paints, writes, designs sets and dabbles in music. He currently works for a local non-profit agency and has been the Technical Director for the Lambda Players for the past three years.

Burnt Fields plays March 21 – April 20, 2008, Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays March 30, April 13 (Benefiting Avalon House) and April 20 at 4pm, The Studio Theatre, 1028 R Street, 916.444.8229. For tickets and further info: lambdaplayers.com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SPIRITUALITY

The Highest Call: "Freedom" A Life's Pursuit

By Erin Von Ohlsen

Freedom has been my life's pursuit. I spent twenty-seven years trapped within my own pain…my mind was a prison validated by the world and its lack of authenticity. All I wanted was to love and to be loved.

Being raised in a religion of rules, abuse and rejection I eventually ran in the other direction. I ran to anything that gave me relief. This worked for a few years because relief was better than suicide, and I believe today that it helped keep me alive. I always sought out spirituality, just never Christianity. I would get drunk and immediately start talking about God. The void I was trying to fill would speak to me as soon as I fed it. The relief of alcohol and drugs often opened the door for the poison to be released from the prison of my mind.

The void eventually made it clear to me that love was the only source that could fill it. So I made it my quest to fill this void with love so I could become free. My quest took me all over the country. I sought love in many different ways, most often through drugs and women. What I learned from these experiences was the importance of being authentic and fearless. Drugs taught me how to open up and be myself. Women taught me how much I wanted/needed love. They showed me how needy I was. I had insatiable desires that were only temporarily filled.

The awesome part of my journey is when I realized how much God loves me. I had an experience with Jesus. This happened during a period while I was clean and sober and after a near death experience. Basically, I tangibly felt my heart open and fill with an overflowing love and peace I'd never experienced before. It was the best high I'd ever had. I believe that God knew this was the only way for me to truly believe because of all the abuse I encountered as a child. The abuse that had the name, "God/Jesus" attached to it. This love I felt was what I'd always longed for but never believed would come through these names. Jesus has now become the portal that connects me with the Divine.

My life began to transform dramatically, but I continued to party for a few more years. There was a new freedom I felt…a deep sense of peace. I knew that God loved me unconditionally even though I was a crazy, wasted lesbian. This is the purpose of my story, to share the assurance of God's love no matter who we are and what we do. Over time I chose a different way of living. I chose to be clean and sober because I wanted nothing to block me from experiencing the Divine in each moment. I wanted health. The torment was over and the void began to fill.

The day I met Jesus was the same day I met my partner, Vicky. Our relationship has been blessed over and over. God loved me through her in a way I'd never experienced, unconditionally. So no matter who we are or how we live, we are called to love as we are loved. Each person's journey is their own. I find that each moment is an opportunity for me to love without judgment.

My testimony is an explanation of how I found God. I don't believe in religion, just connection. We live in a world where Christians often seem like the most unfree, critical people. As I wish to be set free from the judgment that is associated with this religion, I must therefore release my own judgment towards the testimonies of others and their spirituality. One thing I am certain of is that God and I have found each other in the strangest of places.

Recently, Vicky and I discovered a church that honors our individuality and recognizes our partnership. We go to church to give thanks, to get some spirituality, and to give back a little bit of the love that has been given to us. I have found that, for me, freedom just might be living in the questions while loving the moments...and the people in them.

Erin Von Ohlsen comes from a lineage of ministers, preachers, and healers. She also has these gifts and is seeking the Creator's insight as she discerns how these gifts will manifest in her life. She and her partner, Vicky, are relatively new to Sacramento. So join us in welcoming them to this wonderful community. We look forward to reading more about Erin's path in future issues. To contact Erin directly, email your comments or questions to spirit@achurchforall.org or mail them to P.O. Box 162073 Sacramento CA 95816-2073. To learn more about A Church For All visit us on the web at www.achurchforall.org.

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Mortgage Rates And The Fed

By Jennifer Cox

I've been hearing a lot of questions about what's happening with mortgage rates today. People want to know things like "My rate is going to begin adjusting next year, should I refinance now?" and "I keep hearing about the Fed lowering the rate, why aren't fixed rates coming down?".

The Fed is scheduled to meet again on March 18th, and it's predicted that they will drop rates by .50%. Many people are wondering if this means they need to refinance or sell, so today I am going to talk a little bit about the relationship between mortgage rates and the Fed rate, and also how to look at your adjustable rate loan and find the Index and the Margin, so you can tell what rate your Adjustable Rate Loan will be at it's next adjustment.

First of all, you may have noticed early last month when rates dropped overnight as a reaction to the stock market crashing and the Fed being dropped by .75%. Such emergency measures are unusual, and don't reflect the usual relationship between the Fed and your 30 year fixed Conforming rate. On that day, though, mortgage rates dropped significantly, only to start creeping back up within a few days. What's happening right now (today is March 10 as I write this) is that most lenders started the day offering around 6.125% at par (no discount, no rebate), which is about .25% higher than this time last week.

Usually the mortgage rates start to drop a little in anticipation of the Fed reduction, but this time there are a number of other factors causing investors to be cautious with mortgage rate rates, ie. High unemployment rates (which at 4.6% actually is only a teeny bit higher than last year), consumer confidence is low so spending is down, it's an election year, you name it. So don't be surprised if mortgage rates stay the same or even creep up a little in the coming days. Today might be a good day to lock if you are shopping for a mortgage.

What about your Adjustable Rate Mortgage? Well, today Prime is at 6% (down from 8.25% just one year ago!) , the 1 year T-Bill is at 1.66%, the 1-Year LIBOR is at 2.57%, and the 6-Month LIBOR is at 2.74. What does this mean? Well, these are all indexes on which ARMS are based, usually with a start rate somewhat higher than the FULLY INDEXED RATE, which is calculated by adding the MARGIN to the INDEX. This is also the calculation which establishes the new rate on the day your loan is scheduled to adjust. This means that many people with loans beginning to adjust this year MAY actually see their interest rates go DOWN, depending on the terms of their original note.

There is typically a restriction on just HOW low the rate may go below the start rate. Most loans state that the FLOOR may never be more than 1% less than the start rate to no more than 1% below the start. The ADJUSTABLE RATE RIDER in your loan documents addresses this issue, and I'm sure your mortgage consultant will be happy to find it for you. You're also welcome to drop by my office and I'll go over your mortgage with you. The good news, though, is that you may actually have a LOWER payment the next your ARM adjusts! Won't that be GREAT? And you don't even have to refinance!

I've also been hearing concerns about values in Sacramento, and Midtown in particular. More Good News! Though our neighbors in Elk Grove, Natomas, and Roseville have seen higher than usual foreclosure rates, increased time on the market, and supply exceeding demand, all resulting in steeply declining prices, Midtown real estate has stayed fairly steady, with a somewhat longer marketing time, but minimal decline in prices, and a much lower number of Bank-Owned homes than our neighbors. Our Midtown micro-market is holding fairly steady, and has a number of new homes for buyers looking for that perfect Midtown loft, condo, townhome, or bungalow.

There are a few Bank-Owned homes here and there, and if you are in a position to buy a new home, or an investment property, now is probably the best time to start looking, as Sacramento in general is beginning to experience a turnaround in the market, with multiple offers being presented on many homes.

There are a number of great ways to finance your new home, and many lenders are still offering 100% financing to qualified First-Time Buyers. Get out there and stimulate that economy, people! Let me know if you have any questions about YOUR neighborhood!

Jennifer Cox is the Director of Business Development, and Senior Loan Officer, at Old Valley Homes and Loans, a Midtown, family-owned and operated, full service Real Estate and Mortgage Company. Old Valley Homes and Loans is the area's first Green Lender. Jennifer has been with Old Valley for 16 years, and has been a DRE licensed salesperson since 1994. Jennifer is heading up Old Valley's Green Lending solution.

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The Power of the Vision

By Sharon Fredrickson

For whatever reason, people sure have a difficult time deciding exactly what they want in their lives. When I ask people what their intentions are for their lives they either don't know, or they tell you what they don't want. The biggest goal that I hear is that people say they want to be debt free.

That changes very quickly when they realize that if they sold their home, their car, and choose to live on the streets they would in fact be debt free. When I was growing up, one source of income that my dad had was that he would do people taxes. He would always laugh when people told him that their goal was to pay zero taxes. "Well shoot" he said, "that's easy. Quit your job." Those are two great examples of "be careful what you wish for".

There are two things that you have to know about our minds. First of all, our minds can't process a negative thought. Let me give you an example.

Don't think about an ice cream cone. See before you cannot think about it, you have to think about what you're not suppose to think about. Think about that one! The second thing you have to remember is that our minds think in pictures not words.

If you've seen The Secret (which by the way it's been out so long now it's no longer a secret) you saw them talk about the power of creating a vision board. I agree, this is a very powerful tool but it will only work if it's done correctly. Since we know our minds think in pictures, let's not put up a lot of words or numbers on our boards. Things like goal weight, cholesterol numbers and bank balances don't really do much for you mind. Neither do the words or pictures with the big red circle and a line through it.

The idea behind a vision board is to put pictures up of what your life is going to look like when you've achieved that goal. Don't put your ideal weight number up there or a lowered cholesterol number, put up pictures of activities that you will be able to do when you are Livin' Free Physically. Don't put a bank balance up there, put up pictures of things you will be able to do and buy when you are Livin' Free Financially.

Here are some tips on creating you ideal vision board. First of all, realize that you don't want the things (the cars, the house, the jewelry, etc) you want to become the person that can get those things.

With that in mind, write down on a piece of paper the following sentence, "Who I want to be." Then write down 5 or 6 things that describes that. On another sheet of paper write down, "What I want to do." Then write down 5 or 6 sentences that describe that. Last but certainly not least, write down "What I want to have." Again, write down 5 or 6 things that describe just that.

You now have an idea of who you want to be, what you want to do and what you want to have. By the way, when doing this remember it's critical to concentrate on all four pillars, financially, relationally, spiritually and physically.

Now that you have this list, start looking for pictures that represents each of these things. Remember, this is YOUR vision board. The pictures you choose only have to have meaning to you. If by chance someone see's your vision board and says something negative, remember this technical sentence to throw at them. "Let it go!"

Now it's time to visualize. First off, you must visualize every night as you're drifting off to sleep. Sleep is when your subconscious mind is most active, so make sure you're giving it some great things to work with. If you really want to put some steam to this, visualize 1st thing in the morning, mid afternoon, and then again right before going to sleep.

When you are visualizing, don't see yourself being this person, doing these things, or having those things, actually be, do and have. If you are visualizing a car, don't see a picture of yourself driving that car. Actually put yourself in that car and you should be looking over the steering wheel and across the dashboard.

Remember, our minds create the reality and it only can work from memory. What memories are you going to visualize and what reality are you going to create?

Sharon Fredrickson is the cofounder of Livin' Free which is a company that is dedicated to leading people towards success in all aspects of their lives. For more information on Sharon and Livin' Free visit them at www.livinfree.biz.

EARTH TALK

FROM THE EDITORS OF E/THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

What are the environmental consequences of leather? Are there any good alternatives?

Leather is everywhere—from shoes and belts, to purses, wallets, jackets, furniture and car seats. Most probably assume that the leather that finds its way into our wardrobes and living spaces is a byproduct of the meat industry. But while cows are certainly the most popular animals to use for leather goods, in truth most of our leather is sourced from overseas, from countries like China and India, where a host of animals may be raw material for our bags and belts, including horses, deer, sheep and, in more exotic cases, alligators or snakes. All of which may make an animal-lover or vegetarian queasy.

But environmentalists have reason to forgo leather, too. Processing leather requires copious amounts of energy and a toxic stew of chemicals including formaldehyde, coal tar, and some cyanide containing finishes. The tanning process is just as pollutant-laced, and can leave chemicals in the water supply (as described in the best-selling book and popular movie, A Civil Action) and on the hands (and in the lungs) of developing world workers.

Tanneries are top polluters on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Superfund" list, which identifies the most critical industrial sites in need of environmental cleanup. Due to their toxicity, reports organicleather.com, "many old tannery sites can't be used for agriculture, or built on, or even sold." That website is the home of Mill Valley, California, retailer Organic Leather, which offers a return to the tanning practices of old—using animals that are organically fed and humanely raised and a tanning process that uses plant tannins, vegetable tannins or smoke to cure the leather with zero toxicity in the process.

But with the wealth of fashionable faux leather alternatives, there's no need to ever wear animal skins. So-called "cruelty-free" fashions have advanced in leaps and bounds, with variations on every style of handbag, wallet, belt and boot. Online "vegan boutique"Alternative Outfitters even has a version of the ubiquitous Ugg boot made with microsuede "shearling" on the outside and synthetic wool inside, while Iowa-based Heartland Products sells western-style non-leather boots and non-leather Birkenstock sandals. Science has come up with plenty of comfortable, durable alternatives to materials made with animal products. These include vegan microfiber, which claims to match leather in strength and durability, and Pleather, Durabuck and NuSuede.

Products made with these synthetic materials tend to be less expensive than their leather counterparts and are being produced by major manufacturers like Nike, whose Durabuck athletic and hiking shoes "will stretch around the foot with the same 'give' as leather... and are machine washable," according to company sources. And you won't need to adjust your style, either. Vegetarianshoesandbags.com offers everything from purple faux snakeskin peep-toe pumps for hitting the clubs to hemp sneakers with recycled outsoles that look skate park-ready, to distinctive Pleather bags and versatile woven belts.

CONTACTS:
Alternative Outfitters, www.alternativeoutfitters.com; Heartland Products, www.trvnet.net/~hrtlndp; Organic Leather, www.organicleather.com; Vegetarian Shoes and Bags, www.vegetarianshoesandbags.com.

HIV NEWSWIRE BY SONYA COX

Scary story in Nevada...

At the end of February, county health officials closed a Las Vegas city clinic accused of regularly reusing syringes and contaminated medication vials over the past four years. Hours later, Clark County officials hand-delivered notices to three additional clinics owned by the same ECSN medical group, shutting them down amid public outrage. Inspections at 13 other Las Vegas area outpatient surgical facilities over the following week also found several violations of standard practices, the state health licensing chief told a health care committee convened quickly in response to the outrageous discovery.

As a result, it is thought that six people have thus far been found to be infected with hepatitis C from the first clinic alone. As many as 40,000 others seen over the past six years are being notified they could be at risk for hep B and C, and possibly HIV or other blood-borne infections. Unfortunately, 1400 letters are undeliverable due to unknown addresses of the recipients.

The 40,000 letter recipients are eligible to see a physician free at any of ten University Medical Center's Quick Care Centers, said Clark County officials, but they may be charged for associated lab fees.

Within a day of the initial discovery, one client had already filed a class-action lawsuit, seeking punitive damages in the amount of $10,000 per person for all those impacted by the ECSN clinic's actions.

Health officials believe the six clients were infected with hepatitis C when clinic staff, under orders from management, regularly reused syringes and vials of anesthesia intended for one person only. Investigators also witnessed staff members cleaning two scopes in the same solution.

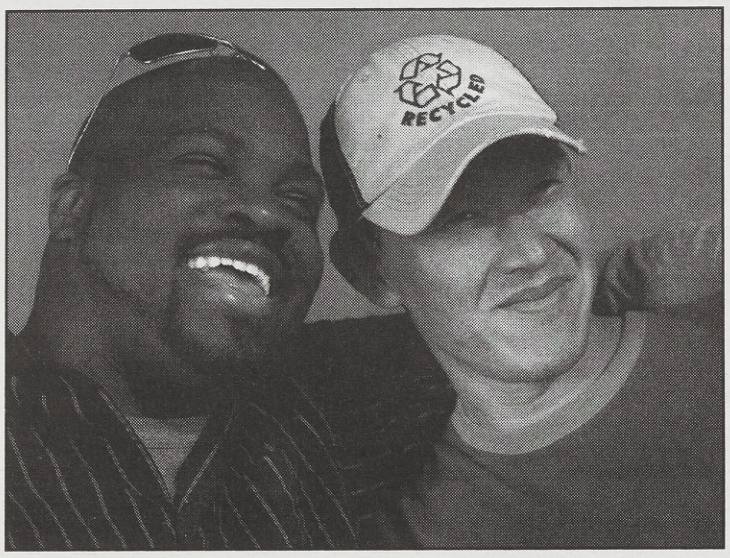
The state licensing department is supposed to inspect the sites every three years, but ECSN's last full inspection was in December 2001. The department head said her bureau is underfunded and beset with staff shortages.

A federal review due this year to reauthorize ECSN's Medicare certification was also unlikely because of the funding shortage, she said. She declined to go into more detail about violations found at the other 13 facilities.

Meanwhile Atlanta's Centers for Disease Control issued this proclamation regarding Nevada's shameful and reckless actions, apparently geared to helping clinic clients better understand their potential exposure (in direct relation to their understanding of probability theorem).

"People need to be concerned but not overly afraid," said the CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis. "The risk for any one person is very low." A person's risk would vary depending on whether an infected person was treated before him or her. In addition, not all nurse anesthetists reused syringes, nor did all reused syringes contaminate the medication vials. "So one's risk is proportional to a low probability, times another low probability."

The director of infectious diseases at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, predicts there will not be many more infections tied to the clinic. "You also have to keep in mind, they've been doing this for four years and we haven't had many cases of hepatitis C in the valley."



Guess who's gay...

UC-Davis' Gender and Sexuality Commission works to promote sex education, safe sex, condom use, and gender and sexuality awareness. GASC distributes free condoms but does not promote promiscuity, and addresses issues such as sexual assault and gender rights, said a spokesperson.

During Generation Sex Week, May 19-23, GASC will hand out condoms and brochures about safe sex. "We'll also have a movie showing of 'Juno' and a 'Guess Who's Gay' panel of people to break down stereotypes of the community," said a spokesperson. "We want to help educate people about sexuality and gender so people can feel more comfortable with their sexuality and learn about different issues they don't normally learn about in a classroom."

Poor law stays on the books...

The Illinois House has upheld a state requirement that local health departments inform a student's principal if the student has tested HIV-positive. The existing law permits a principal to disclose the identity of an HIV-positive child to the school nurse, to the student's teachers, and to those persons who, under federal or state law, are required to decide on the child's placement or education program.

"If my son is playing on the basketball court with another boy [who is HIV-positive and] who has a bloody nose, we want to be able in a polite way to make sure the other kids don't get infected with HIV," said Rep. David Reis, who voted against a bill to stop the policy. "We're talking about a lifelong virus that could be preventable if that principal knew that the child was HIV-positive."

The executive director of the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago countered that lawmakers need more education about the disease. "HIV is not spread through playground accidents or bloody noses," she said. The bill's sponsor said after the vote that she will continue to work to educate legislators on the matter, with the hope of reviving the repeal bill.

Malawi targets AIDS "healers"...

Malawi, a densely populated country in southeastern Africa, has drafted a law to stop traditional healers from claiming they can cure AIDS, and religious leaders from advising their flocks to stop treatment in favor of prayer, says a government official.

The country's secretary of Nutrition and AIDS said, "These are desperate times and we need stern action to deal with these people misleading people." During one week in February alone, the Malawi Council of Churches said five people with AIDS died after their church pastor had advised them to stop taking their anti-retroviral meds because they had been healed by prayer.

Official estimates show AIDS kills about 10 people an hour in impoverished Malawi. Health officials estimate that a million Malawians are infected with HIV, and about 640,000 have died of AIDS-related causes since 1985.

County backs up university's stance...

San Jose State University's president recently halted campus blood drives, saying the Food & Drug Administration's policy banning blood donations by men who have sex with men violates the school's anti-discrimination policies. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has now voted unanimously to state its similar opposition to the FDA's regulations.

FDA's long-standing policy has been that the ban is needed because gay men are much more likely than the general population to carry HIV. The Santa Clara board, which includes openly gay Supervisor Ken Yeager, who proposed the measure, says the ability of blood centers to identify infected blood has grown tremendously in the decades since the prohibition was originally imposed in 1983. Although the supervisors did not forbid blood drives on county property, they left open the idea of revisiting this option in the future.

Elton's party nets millions to fight AIDS...

Elton John's 16th annual Oscar after-party was his most successful ever, raising more than $5 million for the Elton John AIDS Foundation—a million dollars over his goal.

After touring the tables to greet the 750 A-list guests, stars, and Oscar winners, Elton pounded out 11 songs on his piano, the first time in several years that he has played a full set with an entire band at his own party. The crowd howled and clapped when he sang hits such as "Rocket Man" and "Tiny Dancer." Sitting at the head table with Elton and his partner David Furnish were Ellen DeGeneres and partner Portia de Rossi, singer Mary J. Blige and her husband, and Josh Groban.

In Loving Memory... of friends lost in March

December 1984:
Frank Cook

March 1987:
Ted Van Meeter

March 1988:
Cyril Tomasko

March 1989:
Gary Dee
Caraway

March 1990:
Kent McGeachy
David Bernt
Steven Head
Larry Porter
Raymond Avels
Thomas Marvill III
Terry Duarte

March 1991:
Sean McGinnis
Frank Cream
John Gentile
Clint Hockenberry
Vincent Blades

March 1992:
John Hillerns
Danny Buhler

March 1993:
Ernie Madero
Ronnie Gasson
Freddie Vargas
Marrty Arlin
Michael Greely
Adam Croy
Richard Stewart
Randy Hopper

March 1994:
Paul Silva
Daniel Patrick O'Shaughnessey
Kenny Hoff
Jerry F.
Miles Freeman
Rod Marzan, Jr.
Manuel J. Torres

March 1995:
Rodert Dickson
Gordon Stephens
Scott (Skeeter) Linn
Paul Shepherd
Phoenix
Scott Bell
Randy Bowers
Gary Vismara
Ben Goldstein
Mike Newman
Eugene (Gene) Reynolds

March 1996:
Jake Steuble
Jim Maxwell
Steven Swart
Marc Dean Postma
Bill Myers
Terry Bradford
Bob Williams
James Kennedy
Randy Whidden
David Spada
Pablo Soto
Wilbur J.
Tim Butterfield
Tracy "Tod" Dustman
Jimmy Watts
Richard Fougere
Rand Laurent
Albert C.
Jorge Ramir Baca
Chuck Munts III

March 1997:
Alex Mejia
Kay Christian
Don Lambert

March 1998:
Ralph McClain
Michael Lindey

March 1999:
Leonard Riley
Walter Cavalier

March 2001:
Curtis Halterman
Gloria Sloan (Mother Lambda)

March 2003:
Michael Kimbrell
Randy Halter
Mike Lemon (SAF)

March 2004:
Joe Thompson

March 2005:
Mack Lawson

March 2006:
Lee Scarborough

March 2007:
Bob Hattoy

Year Unknown:
Gene Devine
Buckley Francis
Gene Freeman
Steve Gibbs
Terri Hanna

If we are to wear this mourning cloak
let it be made of the fabric of love
woven by the fine thread of memory.

To add the names of loved ones to MGW's remembrance column, or clarify Year Unknown, call 737-0309.

10,000 BC: Too Long, Paper-Thin Plot, But Nice To Look At

By Tom Swanner & Brian Judd

Semi Pro

Swanner: Just when you thought it was OK to head back to the multiplex...along comes the new Will Ferrell movie, *Semi Pro*. Here, Ferrell plays the owner, coach and player of the Flint Tropics an American Basketball Association (ABA) team. The time period is the mid-Seventies when the ABA's merge with the NBA. The Tropics are not going to meet that merge unless that can improve their attendance and their record.

Judd: I don't even know what to say about this movie. I'm not a Will Ferrell fan. His self-effacing schtick is getting really old and he plays the same character in every damn feature film he makes. I thought maybe he was taking the Jim Carrey route with 2006's *Stranger Than Fiction*, but no. Here we are again suffering through his ersatz machismo and asinine behavior. The movie also stars Woody Harrelson, Andre Benjamin, Will Arnett and several other actors that are only known by face at this point in their careers.

Swanner: So, I'm getting the impression that you didn't like it? Did you really go expecting something other than your standard Will Ferrell movie? Here is the premise to most Ferrell movies: Ferrell plays a part that he doesn't even come close to looking like he fits the role. He's a bumbling goof that will make everyone love him in the end. Plot??? Who needs one when you know there will be a few really good laughs and Ferrell will be in his underwear (or nothing at all) somewhere in the movie. It's a win-win.

Judd: I know, but I'm tired of this one trick pony. I go to Will Ferrell movies now hoping to get more laughs from his supporting characters than him, and I have to say the staff game commentators played by Will Arnett and Andrew Daly made me laugh more than anything in the film.

Swanner: I thought it was funny enough. I do like him in smaller doses but *Semi Pro* worked for me. Would I see it again? I think I would but I'd probably need to be intoxicated to get the full effect. Maybe that's the problem. People need to be drunk to truly enjoy a Will Ferrell movie.

Judd: I didn't think it was funny enough for an R-rated film. I thought this was one of his more mediocre efforts...with extra profanity.

Swanner: OK...you didn't like it. We get it. But the folks that like his movies will like this movie as well.

Judd: What's not to like? It's the exact same movie he's been making for the past five years.

Semi Pro

Swanner: **
Judd: *

The Other Boleyn Girl

Judd: The other night Tom and I saw *The Other Boleyn Girl* starring Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman—or was it Keira Knightley? Does it matter?—and the delicious Eric Bana acting out the story of the Boleyn girls and their interactions with King Henry VIII.

Swanner: The costumes were amazing. Although the women's dresses were your standard pre-Elizabethan style, the men's clothing was fabulous. The one brown and blue jacket I need in a 3X. Sure it's a little gay but I'd wear that everywhere. I also thought they did a great job finding some spectacular locations. The set decorations were sensational.

Judd: What about the movie itself?

Swanner: Oh, yes...it follows the two sisters, Mary and Anne Boleyn, and how their family did anything they could to get one of the girls to be Henry's mistress. Once they get one of the two girls in position, as it were, they could write their own ticket to fame and fortune. That's not how it all turns out but you have to wait and see. I thought it felt a little too *Melrose Place*, like they were trying to appeal to a teenage audience and not to and adult audience that's more likely to see the film to begin with.

Judd: I agree. I thought the chemistry and sex scenes were too mild—not that I was looking for hardcore pornography, but this was just above the camera panning into the flame of a candle and going out of focus. The story itself was salacious and catty, but not enough to sustain the movie's 1 hour and 55 minute runtime. Had the movie been 90 minutes, I think the scandal would have been more effective and the target ADD teenagers would be more likely to sit through it. I think the movie missed both targets.

Swanner: These people were really cutthroat and the PG-13 just left me luke warm. If this was Rated R we would have seen more skin—and probably more story. *The Tudors* on show time is more stimulating and I'm bored with that, too. Let's hope this is the end of the British royal melodramas for a while.

Judd: I think we're due for a Queen Victoria bio-pic.

The Other Boleyn Girl

Swanner: **
Judd: **

10,000 BC

Swanner: After their tribe is attacked by guys further up the evolutionary scale, a small group of men travel across mountains, jungles and desert to rescue their tribesmen who have been taken as slaves. That's the plot to *10,000 BC*, a big budget remake...I guess of *1 million BC*.

Judd: Wait, you forgot to mention that there is a prophecy about the lead character that he is going to become a great warrior, but then there's a conflicting prophecy about someone with the mark of the hunter. But then again, those really never did make much of an impact on the whole movie, did they?

Swanner: They might have mentioned that, but I was never good at reading cave art. Did you notice that our hero came from a very mountainous region and they walked to the jungle and then to the desert where they met the Egyptian (I guess) all in sandals made from animal skins? My feet hurt just walking from Adventureland to Fantasyland and where are there mountains like that near Egypt? Also, why was everyone wearing so many cloths?

Judd: You're heard of continental shift right? Well, maybe back in 10,000 BC the continents were all mooshed together and he was able to walk from Nepal thru the Amazon, back toward Nigeria, across the Sahara and end up in Egypt. I loved the continuously shifting accents. When they were being touching and reverent, it had a slightly British tinge, and then when they were fighting it sounded like they were from the Eastern Bloc. Sometime it would slip into a Persian dialect as well. It was a good movie.

Swanner: I forgot all about the continental shift but I thought that happened before there were people...when the earth was still cooling? I guess it doesn't really matter. I was still entertained even though the movie made no sense and I can't read cave art. Also, how did that tribe survive high in the mountains where there were no trees or animals yet they had fire, shelter and too many clothes? Maybe this is one of "those" movies where the mastery at work is so amazing you don't ask questions...like the Bush administration!

Judd: There was only one scene with cave art and the one guy was explaining it to him as they showed it! Having a Masters in hieroglyphics wouldn't have helped the movie make any more sense. I thought the main character was a little over dressed; he was wearing a loincloth *and* leather pants. Shouldn't it be one or the other? I agree the visuals and the SFX were really good. I would say this movie compares very closely to Peter Jackson's King Kong; it was too long, paper-thin, but nice to look at.

Swanner: That's actually a pretty good comparison but this film is one hour and thirteen minutes shorter at just under two hours. This is what I call a classic popcorn movie. Lots of action with great special effects and as long as the popcorn is flowing I'm there for the ride. I also think this is a movie that really needs to be seen on the big screen once to really get the feel for it's grandeur.

10.000 BC

Swanner: **
Judd: * ½

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916.334.2970
Narcotics Anonymous
916.732.2299
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous
916.712.0529, sca-recovery.org

AIDS SERVICES

24-Hour AIDS Hotline
800.590.2437, cdc.gov
AIDS/HIV Housing Alliance
916.979.0897
Avalon House
916.979.0925
Breaking Barriers
2020 V St., 916.447.2437
C.A.R.E.S.
1500 21st St., 916.443.3299
Golden Rule Services,
916.446.AIDS, goldenrules.info
Sac. Valley Pozabilities
916.747.0960
The Effort, Inc AIDS Education & Medical Clinic
1820 J St., 916.325.5556
theeffort.org

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

Stephan's Auto Haus
3950 Attawa Ave., 916.456.3040
stephansautohaus.com

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS

Badlands Dance Club
2003 K St., 916.441.6823
BoJangles
1119 21st St., 916.448.0706
Club 21
1119 21st St., 916.443.1537
FACES
2000 K St., 916.448.7798
The Bolt
2560 Boxwood, 916.649.8420
The Depot
2001 K St., 916.441.6823
The Mercantile Saloon
1928 L St., 916.447.0792

BICYCLES

Bicycle Chef
2409 J St., 916.447.9118

CHORAL & DANCE GROUPS

Capital City Squares
916.929.8697
Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus
sacramentomenschorus.org
Small Difference Women's Ensemble
hometown.aol.com/asmalldifference
True Colors Women's Chorus
877.758.7827
truecolorschorus.org

CHURCHES

A Church For All
916.502.5603, achurchforall.org
Central United Methodist Church
5265 H St., 916.452.5016
Davis Community Church
412 C St., Davis, 530.753.2894
daviscommunitychurch.org
Dignity
2529 K St., 916.492.6452
Fair Oaks United Methodist
9849 Fair Oaks Blvd.,
916.961.6631
M.C.C.
10500 Chaplain Ave.
916.364.4325

DIRECTORY

Valley Rainbow Pages
916.444.2322, vrp.info

FITNESS & NUTRITION

Fitness Happens Personal Training
3112 O St., Ste #9. 916.813.9009

GLBT GIFT STORES

Etc.
2101 L St., 916.446.8049
Something Fabulous
1927 L St., 916.442.0185

GLBT RESOURCES

Delta Lambda Phi National Social Fraternity
916.669.0737, dlp.org/iota
LLACE, (GLBT Library & Archives)
1414 21st, 916.492.0558
lavenderlibrary.org
Rainbow Chamber
916.817.2400
rainbowchamber.com
Sacramento Area Bisexual Network
bisexual.org/g/sabn
Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center
1927 L St., 916.442.0185
lambdasac.org
UC Davis GLBT Center
530.752.2452,
GLBTcenter.ucdavis.edu
WEAVE
1900 K St., 916.920.2952
weaveinc.org

GROCERIES

Davis Co-Op
620 G St.,Davis, 530.758.2667

HOTELS / INNS / RESORTS

Inn at Parkside
2116 Sixth St., 658-1818

MEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

Men's Coming Out, Discussion & Support Group
916.442.0815
Sacramento Valley Bears
sacvalleybears.org
Sierra Gay Men's Network
ccservices.cc/sgmn
Valley Knights Motorcycle Club
916.455.6540

MORTGAGE

Big Valley Mortgage
Sharon Fredrickson, 916.960.5230

OPTOMETRISTS

Dr. Cameron Yee
6407 Riverside Blvd.,
916.395.0673

PET CARE / RESCUE

Fur People Pet Sitting
916.457.1655

POLITICAL RESOURCES

California Capital Political Action Committee (CAPPAC)
916.736.2722, calcape.org
Lambda Letters Project
916.728.1261, lambdaletters.org
Sac. Log Cabin Republicans
logcabinsacramento.org
Sac. Stonewall Democrats
sacstonewall.org

REAL ESTATE

Prudential California Realty
Carolyn Crabtree Realtor
2250 Del Paso Rd., Ste. A,
916.833.0661

RESTAURANTS

Cheffery's An American Bistro
4235 Arden Way, 916.488.CHEF,
chefferysbistro.com
Dos Coyotes Border Café
1735 Arden Way, 916.927.0377
Greek Village Inn
65 University Ave., 916.922.6334
Headhunters
1930 K St., 916.448.0706
Hot Rods
2007 K St., 916.443.7637

SPORTS

Capital City Hoopsters:
gaybasketball.com
Capital City Volleyball League
sacvball.com
Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Ass.
916.442.0185 x106
capitalcrossroads.org
Front Runners
916.974.8199, frsac.org
Gay & Lesbian Sierrans-Mother Lode Chapter
916.557.1100 x119
Sacramento Arts & Games Assoc.
916.451.8663
The Sacramento Women's Flag Football Association
SacramentoWomens
FlagFootball.com

STORAGE

21st Century Self Storage
4161 Pell Drive, 916.564.4646

THEATRES

Lambda Players Theatre
2427 17th St., 916.444.8229,
lambdaplayers.com
Runaway Stage Productions
Sierra II Center
runawaystage.com

THERAPISTS

Bruce Gunn, MFCC #M19480
418 Alhambra Blvd., 916.443.7171

TRANSGENDER SERVICES

Sacramento Gender Association
916.290.7226
transgender.org/sga

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

Sisters of Scota Women's Motorcycle Club,
530.692.9467
soswmc@hotmail.com
Women Connecting/Coming Out Group
916.628.0803
Women On Wednesdays Social Group
916.442.0815

YOUTH SERVICES

California Youth Crisis Line
800.843.5200
Queer Straight Alliance
916.278.7388, csus.edu/org/qsa
RESPECT Sacramento
916.733.2135
respectsacramento.org
Teen AIDS Hotline
800.234.TEEN

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916.441.6397

Military Brats Party
@Bojangles 18+

Weds., March 19, 2008

Come in Uniform and no cover!
A portion of the door goes to Charity
$150 in CASH Prizes!

Doors @ 9pm
Club 21 • 1119 21st Sacramento
Clubbojangles.net

MONTHLY/WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

SAME-SEX BALLROOM DANCING–1st & 3rd Sun of each month, Dance Workshop & Guided Practice, Ballroom of Sac., 6009 Folsom Blvd., $15 per person No partner necessary 916.320.4382

MONDAY

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP–Lively discussions exploring gay-related issues in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. Afterward, the group often dines at a local eatery for further discussion and support. Treat yourself and drop in for an interesting and fun evening. 18+. 6:30-7:30pm. Sac. G&L Center, 1927 L St. Info: 916-442-0185 or SacCenter.org

LESBIAN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP –Meets the 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30pm Bring partners or support people with you. ROXANNE1040 @aol.com

SACRAMENTO STONEWALL DEMOCRATS–Meets every 2nd Monday, 6pm, edbennett1@gmail.com

MAD MONDAYS AT SAC BADLANDS–2 for 1 cocktails All Day and All Night, 20th & K, sacbadlands.com

OPEN MIC POETRY–Slam, Spokenword, The Coffee Garden, 2914 Franklin Blvd Sacto, Hosted by J2, 7pm 'til it's Silent

WEDNESDAY

WOMEN ON WEDNESDAYS, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 916.442.018

RESPECT SACRAMENTO, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm, LLACE, 1414 21st St, RespectSacramento.org or 916.733.2135

SPC TRANS PEERS GROUP, 2nd & 4th Weds. of the month, 7:30pm at Stanislaus PRIDE Center, 823 15th Street in Modesto. tgsupport@stanpride.org, stanpride.org

SAC NOW, Sac Chapter National Organization for Women, meets the 3rd Thurs. of the month, 7pm, Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St, 27th & J. SacramentoNOW@gmail.com

THURSDAY

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS UNDERWEAR & THEME NIGHT, 10pm, Strippers, GoGo Boys, contests, Poolside fun and much more, FACES, 20th & K Sts., faces.net

Taryn Thru-U &
Tony Southworth
Present:

DYNAMITE!!

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Location: Club 21
1119 21st St
Sacramento, Ca

Come and join us for a great Drag Show
to support the La Kish Hayworth Scholarship Fund

Doors @ 7pm
Show @ 8pm

For more information contact Executive Director of La Kish Hayworth Scholarship Fund Tony Southworth at 916-247-0129

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MIDTOWN'S FAVORITE BIKE SHOP

Best SN&R FIRST PLACE 06

BIKES: Orbea, Giant, Felt, Jamis, Breezer, Terry

CLOTHING: Castelli, Descente, Shimano, SIDI, DMT

EXPERTS: We have the staff to answer all your questions and needs!

Bicycle Chef
bicycles, service, and accessories

2409 J STREET | 916.447.9118 | M-F 10-6, Sun 11-5

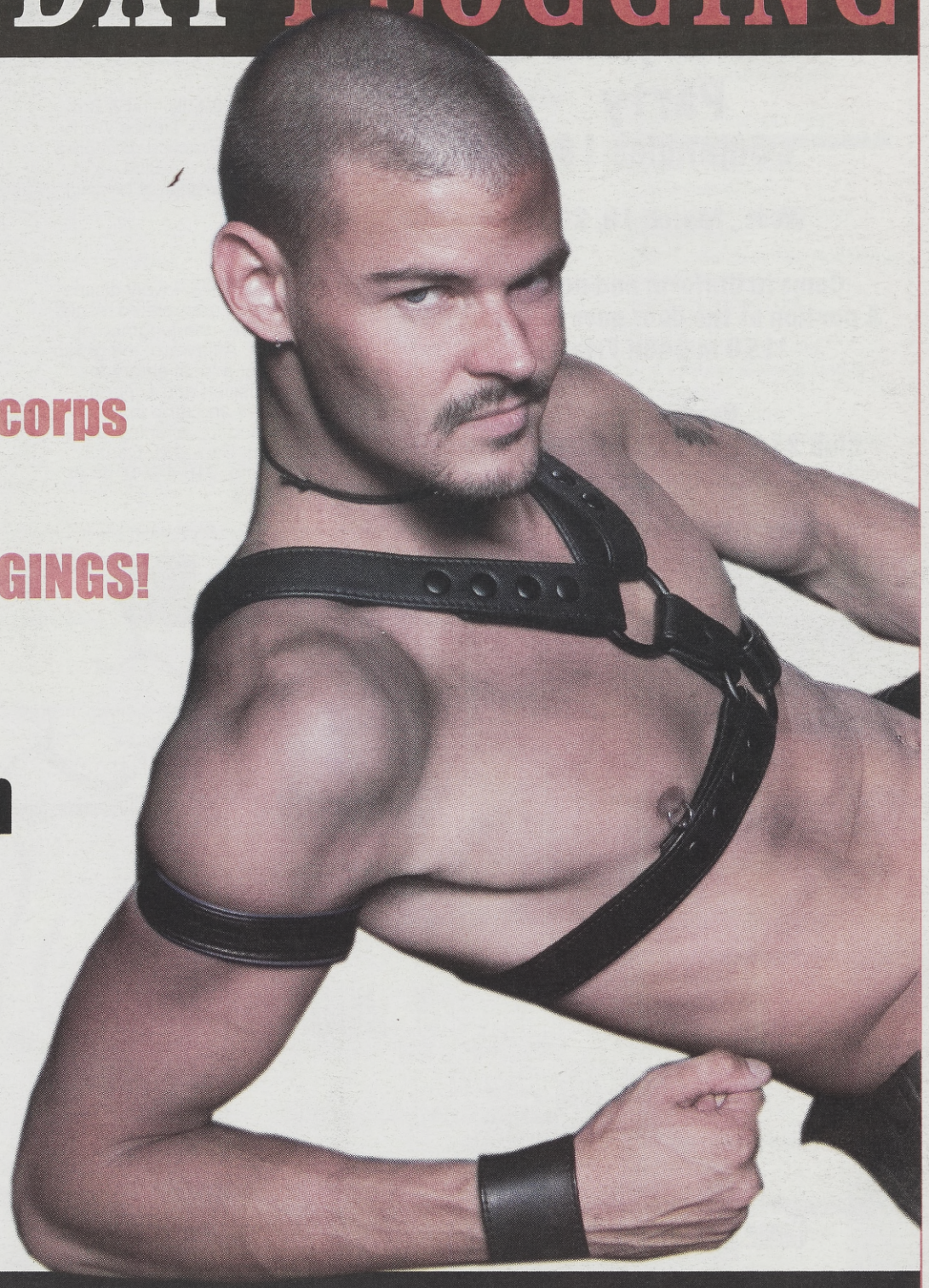
A GOOD FRIDAY FLOGGING

Friday, March 21
9pm - Midnight

Presented By

Sacramento Valley Leathercorps

$8 BEER/SODA BUST
RAFFLES, AUCTIONS, and FLOGGINGS!



Adult Film Star

Derrick Hanson
will be flogged!

NO COVER!

The BOLT Sacramento

ST. PATRICK'S DAY • MONDAY, MARCH 17
EVERYBODY'S IRISH ON ST PATRICK'S DAY!
FREE CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER, DRINK SPECIALS, AND GREEN BEER!
FOOD SERVED @6PM AND THE PARTY LASTS ALL NIGHT! NO COVER!

THE BOLT'S ANNIVERSARY • SATURDAY, APRIL 5
CELEBRATE THE BOLT'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY!
DRINK SPECIALS & FREE MEXICAN FOOD! DOORS OPEN @2PM! NO COVER!

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